



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
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April 11, 2021
Second Sunday of Easter

REFLECTION

"It is the test of a good religion, whether you can joke about it."

- G.K. Chesterton

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN

"God of Grace and God of Laughter"

HYFRYDOL

God of grace and God of laughter,
singing worlds from nought to be--
sun and stars and all thereafter
joined in cosmic harmony:
give us songs of joy and wonder,
music making hearts rejoice;
let our praises swell like thunder,
echoing our Maker's voice.

When our lives are torn by sadness,
heal our wounds with tuneful balm;
when all seems discordant madness,
help us find a measured calm.
Steady us with music's anchor
when the storms of life increase:
in the midst of hurt and rancor,
make us instruments of peace.

Turn our sighing into singing,
music born of hope restored:
set our souls and voices ringing,
tune our hearts in true accord:
till we form a mighty chorus
joining angel-choirs above,
with all those who went before us,
in eternal hymns of love.

Words by Carl Daw © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

You know better than we do, Amused God, what important people we believe we are. Believing we have to be serious all the time, we miss out on the joy of

your creation. Choosing to feast on the pain of the world, we skip the picnic offered in paradise. Clinging to the despair which is our best friend, we ignore Jesus. who can bring us home to your heart. Forgive us, Heart of Joy, and make us open to the startling, and upside-down, ways in which you work. Fill us with Easter's laughter; fill us with your healing joy; fill us with the love poured into us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The good news is that this joy is now given to us.

Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy. We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed, to bring healing to the broken, to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

HYMN

“I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy”

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, Down in my heart
Down in my heart, Down in my heart
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, Down in my heart
Down in my heart to stay.

I've got the peace that passes understanding
down in my heart...

Well, if the devil doesn't like it
he can sit on a tack...

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus
down in my heart...

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Proverbs 17:22

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:19-31

SERMON

“Breath of Spirit, Breath of Joy”

Rev. William Schram

HYMN

“Blest Is the Man Whose Bowels Move”

A CHRISTIAN’S DUTY

Blest is the man whose bowels move,
And melt with pity to the poor;
Whose soul, by sympathizing love,
Feels what his fellow saints endure.
Feels what his fellow saints endure.
Alleluia! My God has set me free!

His heart contrives for their relief
More good than his own hands can do;
He, in the time of general grief,
Shall find the Lord has bowels, too.

Shall find the Lord has bowels, too.
Alleluia! My God has set me free!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN 234, St. 1, 2 & 4

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

ST.. KEVIN

Come, you faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought forth Israel
Into joy from sadness,
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
Led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today:
Christ has burst his prison,
And from three days' sleep in death
As a sun has risen.
All the winter of our sings,
Long and dark, is flying
From the Light, to whom we give
Laud and praise undying.

Neither could the gates of death,
Nor the tomb's dark portal,
Nor the watchers, nor the seal
Hold you as a mortal:
But today, among your own,
You appear, bestowing
Your deep peace, which evermore
Passes human knowing.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Rev. Barbara Piercy
Noel A. Piercy
Susan Jones
Micki Hardenberg, Cantor
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers